

Team Talk | 27.01.2021

Dear families,

I hope that you are well? I want to write and thank you all for all that you are doing for your children. The engagement in both home and school learning is nothing short of excellent. I am constantly bowled over by the effort and care that families are taking at home and the work that is being produced. I could not extend a more genuine thank you. I know first-hand how challenging it is ensuring that children remain engaged at home... even for us teachers... so again, thank you. I know that the work that you are helping your children to complete will mean that the children of Cambrai will remain best placed to catch up quickly and achieve well. Well make sure that happens, together. The children who are in school, again, amaze me. They miss their friends and 'normality', but my goodness are they working hard, playing hard and living out our school motto of being 'good people'. I am such a proud (if tired) headteacher!

As a school we have recently subscribed to two new websites that we will use both at school – and at home. This letter provides your log in details. These are at the end of the letter. Both weblinks can also be accessed from our Remote Education page on our website – we suggest that you then save the pages for ease of future access. <https://www.cambraiprimaryschool.co.uk/remote-education>

Numbots

Numbots is a wonderful website, used by thousands of schools across the country. It aims to help children to grasp early number concepts by exposing children to simple number games repeatedly. Children earn 'coins' and then can use these to improve their 'robot' avatar. All children log in and start on the same 'story' and then progress through the levels at their own pace. We hope that the children enjoy the game as we know it will certainly improve their mental maths skills, over time. It is best 'played' for a few minutes at a time, but often – rather than for long blocks of time.

Purple Mash

Purple Mash is a full online learning platform. Over the coming weeks, teachers will use this to allocate tasks, but these will be signposted in the usual way from the see-saw daily task lists. Purple Mash covers all areas of the curriculum and has tools available to create almost anything that you can create on a screen! This platform won't be signposted by staff immediately as we are awaiting training on how to allocate tasks 'To Dos!' etc, but children are free to log in and have a play... they can't break anything! For reception children, 'Mini Mash' is a good place to start.

Staff Testing

You will have undoubtedly heard that from this week, staff in primary schools are eligible for regular COVID-19 tests. Staff carry out these tests twice per week, and their aim of use is to identify those who are infectious with COVID, without showing any symptoms. We know that around 1 in 3 people who have COVID do not display any symptoms at all, so this regular testing programme that has been rolled out across many sectors, not just schools, will hopefully further curb the spread of this disease. Because of this, we do envisage at times that there may be some disruption to schools. If a staff member tests positive, the bubble in which they work must close, and staff and children within it must begin to self-isolate. If this happens, we will be in touch as soon as we can to direct you and keep you informed. So far, in relation to bubble closures, we have been VERY fortunate at Cambrai... long may it continue. Thank you, as always, for understanding and following the rules in your own lives. As I have said before – what each of us does personally at the moment, can directly affect all of the other families in school – so again, thank you for staying safe.

Before and After School Club – 'The Nest'

For those of you who are making use of our new provision, I do hope that you are finding that it meets your needs? You would imagine that we are currently running this provision at a significant loss, but we are committed to keeping it open for those of you who need us! As such, from Monday 1st February, we will have to begin to stick to our original plan to charge families who give less than 24 hours' notice of a place cancellation. There has been occasion where Mrs Cornwell has travelled to school and the one or two children who were booked in have cancelled last minute. I hope that you understand our position. I also

need to apologise for the issues regarding payment. We signed up to an automated payment system in November in preparation for the opening of the Nest. Like for so many companies, COVID is meaning that their service is slow and poor. We are chasing this daily and we aim to have this sorted ASAP. Thank you so much for understanding... it is a nightmare for you – and us! For those families who are supported to pay for this provision via the MOD, in line with other garrison schools, we will invoice you, you pay the bill and claim the costs back from the MOD. If you need any help with this, once the bill arrives – please get in touch.

A Full Reopening? Food vouchers

The government announced today that they are aiming for schools to begin reopening from Monday 8th March. Obviously this may change! But we are very hopeful we will have all our children back in school for then. We do know that schools are closed for half term as normal and that food vouchers, for those families who receive them, will not be allocated for the February half term. But as we now know we will definitely not be coming back after February half term, this may also change! For those children who are entitled to these, and who are not in school, you should have received an email from 'Edenred' to download your vouchers for this half term. If you have not received the email and think you should have, please check your junk folders and if they are not there, please get in touch and we will look in to this for you. If you email me directly, I can sort this – mdent@lingfieldeducationtrust.com

Feedback...

I have to let you know that I have never seen the staff in school work so hard. Currently, they are effectively doing two jobs... creating, setting and reviewing the online learning and teaching the children who are in school. They are working longer hours than they should and are relentless in their pursuit of our children having the best offer available to our children. I am in awe of their dedication and care and I hope that you are too. They have had to quickly learn to be 'digital teachers' and develop skills which none of us were taught when training to work in schools! I have had one or two lovely emails from parents thanking the staff for their hard work – but if anyone else would like to email me some positive comments, I'm aiming to make the teachers a secret video montage of 'thanks' – to make them smile in these tough times! Similarly, if you have any constructive comments of how we can improve further, I'm all ears... we don't rest on our laurels at Cambrai! My direct email is mdent@lingfieldeducationtrust.com – I'd love to hear from you.

Take good care, and thanks again.



Mr. M. Dent
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Purple Mash Log In Details

<https://www.purplemash.com/sch/cambraiprimaryschool>

Numbots Log In Details

<https://play.numbots.com/>

